

respectfully submit that, since a comprehensive search would involve consideration of the subject matter of each of the materials, for efficiency all of the materials could be prosecuted at the same time.

Applicants further respectfully submit that Thermalgraph DKD fibers, Thermalgraph DKA fibers, Dialead K223HG fibers are all graphitized pitch-based carbon fibers having overlapping properties as set out in the specification and as now included in the claims. Thus, these materials should be considered as forming a single group because they share the above-described common features. Further, Applicants also traverse the election of species requirement in general on the basis that, while the claims are allegedly drawn to different species, Applicants respectfully submit that, since a comprehensive search would involve consideration of the subject matter of each of the materials, for efficiency all of the materials could be prosecuted at the same time.

The Office also points to claims 19, 35-36, 39-40, 42-43 and 45-46 as containing the trademarks Thermalgraph DKD fibers, Thermalgraph DKA fibers and Dialead K223HG fibers. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims have been amended accordingly herein as requested.

Regarding claims 42 and 46, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims do not contain trademarks and, thus, no amendment to these claims has been made. According to Applicants' files, claims 42 and 46 read as follows:

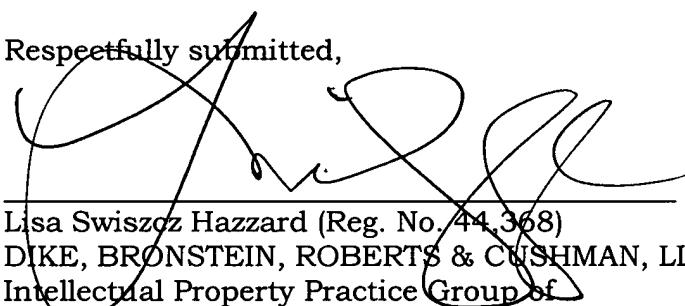
42. The plastic article of claim 41, wherein the polymeric matrix material is selected from the group consisting of polyamideimide, polyetherimide, polyimide, polyetheretherketone, polyphenylene sulfide, liquid crystal polymer, and combinations thereof.

46. A plastic article having a bearing surface, comprising:  
a polymeric matrix material;  
a lubricious reinforcing first additive; and  
a lubricious second additive;

wherein the article has a wear factor of less than about 25 under a load of about 200 psi and a velocity of about 50 feet per minute.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN CLAIMS**

Please note that additions to the claims are shown underlined and deletions are shown in brackets.

Please amend claims 19, 35, 36, 39, 40 and 43 as follows:

19. The plastic article of claim 1, wherein the lubricious reinforcing fiber is selected from the group consisting of [Thermalgraph DKD fibers, Thermalgraph DKA fibers, Dialead K223HG fibers,] graphitized pitch-based carbon fibers having a tensile strength of greater than about 200 KSI, a tensile modulus greater than about 100 MSI, a density ranging from about 2.15 to about 2.25 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, a Tc ranging from about 400 to about 1100 W/mEK, and a diameter ranging from about 7 microns to about 10 microns and combinations thereof.

35. The plastic article of claim 34, wherein the first additive is [DKD] a graphitized pitch-based carbon fiber having a tensile strength of greater than about 200 KSI, a tensile modulus greater than about 100 MSI, a density ranging from about 2.15 to about 2.25 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, a Tc ranging from about 400 to about 1100 W/mEK, and a diameter ranging from about 7 microns to about 10 microns, the second additive is boron nitride platelets, and the polymeric matrix material is selected from the group consisting of polyamideimide, polyetherimide, polyimide, polyetheretherketone, polyphenylene sulfide, liquid crystal polymer, and combinations thereof.

36. The plastic article of claim 34, wherein the first additive is [DKD] a graphitized pitch-based carbon fiber having a tensile strength of greater than about 200 KSI, a tensile modulus greater than about 100 MSI, a density ranging from about 2.15 to about 2.25 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, a Tc ranging from about 400 to about 1100 W/mEK, and a diameter ranging from about 7 microns to about 10 microns, the second additive is tetrafluoroethylene, and the polymeric matrix material is selected from the group consisting of polyamideimide, polyetherimide, polyimide, polyetheretherketone, polyphenylene sulfide, liquid crystal polymer, and combinations thereof.

39. The plastic article of claim 38, wherein the first additive is selected from the group consisting of [Thermalgraph DKD fibers, Thermalgraph DKA fibers, Dialead K223HG fibers,] graphitized pitch-based carbon fibers having a tensile strength of greater than about 200 KSI, a tensile modulus greater than about 100 MSI, a density ranging from about 2.15 to about 2.25 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, a Tc ranging from about 400 to about 1100 W/mEK, and a diameter ranging from about 7 microns to about 10 microns and combinations thereof.

40. A plastic article having a bearing surface, comprising:

a polymeric matrix material selected from the group consisting of polyamideimide, polyetherimide, polyimide, polyetheretherketone, polyphenylene sulfide, liquid crystal polymer, and combinations thereof; and

about 5 percent to about 75 percent by weight of a first additive selected from the group consisting of [Thermalgraph DKD fibers, Thermalgraph DKA fibers, Dialead K223HG fibers,] graphitized pitch-based carbon fibers having a tensile strength of greater than about 200 KSI, a tensile modulus greater than about 100 MSI, a density ranging from about 2.15 to about 2.25 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, a Tc ranging from about 400 to about 1100 W/mEK, and a diameter ranging from about 7 microns to about 10 microns and combinations thereof;

wherein the plastic article has a wear factor of less than about 200 under a load of about 200 psi and a velocity of about 50 feet per minute.

43. The plastic article of claim 42, wherein the first additive is selected from the group consisting of [Thermalgraph DKD fibers, Thermalgraph DKA fibers, Dialead K223HG fibers,] graphitized pitch-based carbon fibers having a tensile strength of greater than about 200 KSI, a tensile modulus greater than about 100 MSI, a density ranging from about 2.15 to about 2.25 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>, a Tc ranging from about 400 to about 1100 W/mEK, and a diameter ranging from about 7 microns to about 10 microns and combinations thereof.